(c) what steps have been taken to follow up the points in the MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. An inter-governmental Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology between India Singapore was signed at Calcutta on January 4, 1995.

(b) The Agreement envisages cooperation in the Scientific fields, including management of research & development, through exchange of Information, exchange of researchers, joint execution of research & development projects, orngaisation of joint seminars and commercialisation of technologies in India and Singapore or any third country including participation in joint ventures. The Cooperation will be executed by conclusion of mutually agreeable programmes of cooperation.

This Agreement shall enter into force after approval by the two countries in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures and exchange of notes concerning such approvals through diplomatic channels.

(c) Discussions have been initiated by identification of a few broad areas like Information Technology, Biotechnology, Materials Science, Chemical Technology, and Telecommunication for our cooperation.

Token programme

8303. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a UNDP funded transfer of knowledge through expatriable natonal (TOKEN programme was initiated by the CSIR in 1980 to lure Indian scientists settled abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the outcome of the review, if any, made by Government to know how far the programme has achieved its objective; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic objective of the programme is to utilise the expertise and resources of highly accomplished talented NRI professionals in related fields to work as consultants in a large number of organisations including industries with a view to (i) solving problems; (ii) working in R & D areas with ultimate objective of generating processes and products; and (iii) giving new ideas and directions and undertaking assignments for specific requirements of industry.

(c) As per the Report of the Joint Evaluation Mission, the Programme has been found effective and useful both at macro and micro levels. The objective of macro level analysis revolvs around TOKTEN role as a catalyst for national development whereas micro level analysis focuses on TOKTEN as an operating system. The Mission after interacting with several prominent user organisations at several places has come to the conclusion that the user organisations have perceived this programme as highly beneficial in terms of transfer of knowledge and know-how and in many cases as an effective vehicle to solve major application problems as well as for generation of technologies and in some cases, to lay the foundation for such a process. The Mission has also observed that the deficiencies pointed out in the pre-

vious reports had also been overcome through some concrete remedial actions.

(d) Keeping in view the success of the programme, Government of India has urged upon UNDP for approval of the proposal for the next phase of the TOKTEN Programme on overriding priority.

Study on Ozont depletion

8304. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, has conducted a study about the extent of depletion Ozone in the atmosphere and its effects on the globe in general and the tropicals and semitropical countries, particularly India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps already taken and being taken to minimise the adverse impact of depletion of Ozone layer in the light of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study of ozone at NPL using Nimbus satellite measurefents indicates a world-wide decrease in total ozone from 1979 to 1989. There is a marginal decrease in total atmospheric ozone content over Indian latitudes. At latitudes higher than 45 degree ozone depletion has been certainly detected. Polar regions, in particular, the Antarctica, where the ozone hole was discovered, are well established as locations of ozone destruction.

(c) The ozone depletion is caused by various ozone depleting substances like Chioro-Flouro Caroons, Halons, etc. As signatory to the Montreal Protocol, the Government of India has prepared a country programme to phase out all these ozone depleting substances as per the stipulations of the Protocol and actions are being taken as per the action plan mentioned in our country report by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as nodal agency. It is an integrated approach which takes care of all the national and international interests.

Technologies Developed by ISRO

8305. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4863 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 1995 and state:

(a) the details of 224 technologies developed and transferred by Indian Space Research Organisation to Industry for commercialisation with tentative project cost, group-wise;

(b) the names of the eight products which require buy-back from ISRO, their annual requirements and value; and

(c) whether ISRO is having MOU with industry for buy-back of products referred in part (a) above; If so, what are the details thereof, product-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNAESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The details of 224 technologies developed by Indian Space